

The James River Inc Mill No 8 property is located on Route 31 (Old Princeton Road) in Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Local tax assessment information is unknown. The 150-acre property is currently unoccupied and consists of an abandoned paper mill, a prefabricated metal building, railroad tracks, and a residence. The property is bordered to the south by the City of Fitchburg wastewater treatment lagoons; to the east by Princeton Road; and to the west by Snows Mill Pond. Land use to the north is unknown.

Land use prior to 1840 is unknown. From 1840 to 1990, the property was operated as a paper mill by various owners. From 1969 to 1971, Weyerhaeuser Company disposed of 1,327 55-gallon drums containing non-chlorinated petroleum-based liquids and toluene-based sludge in two trenches (drum disposal area) on the property. The drums were buried at a minimum depth of 15 feet (ft) below ground surface. Paper rolls, pallets, roofing materials, furnace bricks, wire, and sheet metal were also disposed of in the trenches. In 1980, the drums and the surrounding soil were excavated and disposed of off site. From 1980 to 1984, three surface impoundments located in the northwestern portion of the property were used for paper sludge disposal. In 1990, five surface and five subsurface soil samples were collected from the drum disposal area. Analytical results of the five subsurface samples indicated the presence of six volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and chloroform; several semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), including pentachlorophenol; several inorganic elements, including cobalt, copper, lead, selenium, and zinc; and one polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Previous investigations at the property include a 1987 Preliminary Assessment, a 1991 Site Inspection, and a 1993 Site Inspection Prioritization (SIP) completed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP).

There are no public drinking water supply wells located within 4-radial miles of the property. The estimated population served by private drinking water supply wells within 4-radial miles of the property is 3,623. The location of the nearest private well is unknown. The depth to groundwater on the property and the direction of flow are unknown. Analytical results of groundwater samples collected from monitoring wells located on the property between 1981 and 1985 indicated the presence of VOCs, including PCE, TCE, tetrahydrofuran, and dichloroethene, and metals, including chromium, lead, and zinc. However, based on the location of nearby private drinking water supply wells and the lack of public drinking water supply wells within 4-radial miles of the property, no impacts to nearby groundwater drinking water supplies are known or suspected.

Stormwater runoff from the property flows toward Snows Mill Pond. Additional surface water bodies located along the 15-mile downstream surface water pathway include Flag Brook, Sawmill Pond, Crocker Pond, Crow Hills Pond, Paradise Pond, Keyes Brook, Justice Brook, and Stillwater River. There are no drinking water intakes located along the 15-mile downstream surface water pathway. The property is located within the 100-year flood plain of Stillwater River. A Clean Water Act (CWA)-protected water body, fisheries, and one State-listed threatened species habitat are located along the 15-mile downstream surface water pathway. No known surface water or sediment samples have been collected from the property. Potential impacts to downstream fisheries and sensitive environments are unknown.

There are no workers on the property. The nearest residence is located on the property; however, the number of on-site residents is unknown. An unknown number of people reside within 1-radial mile of the property. There are no schools or day-care centers located within 200 ft of the property. Property access is restricted by a chain-link fence and a locked gate. Analytical results of surface soil samples collected in 1991 indicated the presence of several VOCs, SVOCs; and inorganic elements. Based on these results and site observations and conditions potential impacts to on-site and nearby residential populations are unknown.

An unknown number of residents, 205 acres of wetlands, and one State-listed threatened species habitat occur within 4-radial miles of the property. No laboratory qualitative air samples are known to have been collected from the property. Based on available data, no impacts to nearby populations or sensitive environments are known or suspected.

The last known action at the property was the SIP completed in 1993. The James River Inc Mill No 8 property (listed by MA DEP as being on Westminster Road) has been assigned a status of No Further Action by MA DEP, indicating that no further remedial or response actions are necessary to address environmental concerns on the property.